



CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissell, Representative Rebimbas, and other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Andrew Matthews. I am the President of the Connecticut State Police Union and a Sergeant within the Connecticut State Police. The State Police Union represents approximately 1,031 State Troopers, Sergeants and Master Sergeants.

**RAISED BILL NO. 6510 "AN ACT CONCERNING DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICIALS
AS PEACE OFFICERS".**

As President of the Connecticut State Police Union I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of Raised Bill 6510, "An Act concerning duties of Department of Correction Officials as Peace Officers".

This bill would change Subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of the general statutes in part from its current language defining a Peace Officer as "an official of the Department of Correction authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests (in a correctional institution or facility) to while in the performance of the official's duties".

This change would have a direct impact on section 54-1f of the general statutes which states in part, "Peace Officers, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 53a-3, in their respective precincts, shall arrest, without previous complaint and warrant, any person *for any offense* in their jurisdiction. One could argue that authorized corrections officers would now be allowed to make criminal arrests anywhere in the State of Connecticut while in the performance of their official duties without having received the proper training and police certification as required by state law. Any unintentional mistake or abuse could result in potential liability claims being made against the State of Connecticut.

While this proposal may appear to sound fair on its face, it may expand itself outside of the legislative intent.

March 22, 2013

***Andrew Matthews, Esq.
President, Connecticut State Police Union***

